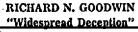
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WILLIAM P. BUNDY "Reasonable Fairness"

## U.S. Aide, Goodwin Debate War Policy

By LYLE DENNISTON Star Staff Writer

PYRGHT Star Staff Writer

A Johnson administration official today cautioned the American people not to expect the coming elections in South

Vietnam to be as fair as a United States election.

William P. Bundy, assistant secretary of state for Asia said the balloting scheduled for Sept. 3 would probably achieve only "a reasonable standard of fairness."

He likened the election there to one that might have been conducted in the United States in the late 19th century, thus tional meeting on the Univer indicating that it would not con-sity of Maryland campus. form to present-day American standards.

Bundy made his remarks about the much-criticized South Vietnamese election during a saying: debate in College Park with "I be Richard N. Goodwin, a former been such intent and widespread speechwriter and assistant to deception and confusion as surboth Presidents Kennedy and rounds this war." Johnson.

ment in the Vietnam war in an mendous miscalculation" about appearance before the National military action in Vietnam, "or Student Association's 20th na-

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Goodwin, now an author and research fellow at Wesleyar University, bitterly criticized U.S. policy in Vietnam now

"I believe there has never

He said the Johnson adminis They debated U.S. involve-tration had either made "a treelse the leaders have misled themselves and the American people."

Goodwin said he "senses" administration's escalation of the war "in the near future,"

He did not elaborate.

He noted that Johnson would have to defend Vietnam policy in an election campaign next year, and commented:

"The President cannot win this election unless he resolves this war."

Bundy's remarks about the Sept. 3 balloting for a South Vietnamese president and sen-ate indicated that the administration was making an effort to head off criticism in this coun-

try of the Vietnam campaign as "a fraud."

Bundy said "there is very free expression during this campaign," adding that South Vietthere will be some change in the nam was inexperienced in free elections and was trying to conduct an election amid a "war situation."

> The administration, he said, is exerting "all of our influence to see that this election will be conducted according to a reasonable standard of fairness, so that the average fellow feels he's had a chance to express himself."

> "The possibility for a really free determination" by all the people of South Vietnam, including the Vict Cong, would have to be postponed until the future, "when external interference has been removed," Bundy said.

On the overall U.S. effort in South Vietnam, Bundy was generally optimistic. "If we proceed on our present course, with measured military action, and with every possible nonmilitary measure, and searching always for an avenue to peace, the prospects for a peaceful and secure Southeast Asia now appear brighter than they have been at any time since the nations of the area were established on an independent basis.

He seemed to discount any suggestion that the administration was ready now to stop the bombing of North Victnam to get negotiations started, saying that "without any meaningful move on the North Vietnam side it would not be a fruitful

path to peace." Goodwin called the war an American "blunder, a mistake of costly and bloody dimensions," and rejected any suggestion that the Kennedy administration had taken steps

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